

## STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

May 6, 1998

Chris Rasmusson 216 Galaxie Rd. Chehalis, Washington 98532

Dear Mr. Rasmusson:

Re: Water Right Application S2-29616

I have reviewed your application for a water right, and I am writing to inform you of our concerns about water availability in your area.

Your property is located in the upper Chehalis River watershed (Water Resource Inventory Area 23). In 1976 instream flows were established for surface water bodies in the basin (under the provisions of Washington Administrative Code 173-522-020, Instream Resources Protection Program in the Chehalis River Basin, Water Resources Inventory Area 22 and 23). Data taken from various river gages (1953 to 1991) in the watershed indicates a trend of declining annual low flows in the basin. A review of flow records shows that instream flows were not met at the Porter gage (station # 12.0310.00) an average of 73 days per year between 1953 and 1991. For all gages the number of days that instream flows are not met is increasing.

Base flows in the streams and rivers of the Upper Chehalis Watershed depend solely on ground water discharge. Because the watershed is largely underlain and bordered by low permeability bedrock, wells in the watershed draw from the same aquifers which naturally discharge to streams. Consumptive use of ground water will eventually diminish streamflow, either by capturing ground water which would have discharged to streams or by inducing water to flow directly from streams to wells.

During previous permitting activities in the upper Chehalis River basin we determined that water is generally not available for consumptive appropriation. Applications for consumptive use of either surface water or ground water connected to streams with low flow limitations will be denied unless the use can be mitigated to show no net loss to the river system.

Our final decision on your application will be a denial unless the withdrawal can be mitigated. You may choose to either withdraw your application at this time, or receive a formal written determination (a Report of Examination) which may be appealed.

Please contact me at the above address, or at (360) 407-0275 to let me know how you wish to proceed with your application.

Don Davidson

Water Resources

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